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CONGRESSIONAL GRANT OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR THE
USES OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Hon. E. F. LOUD, of the House of Representatives, and Hon. CHARLES N. FELTON, of the Senate, have procured the passage of a bill (H. R. 3933, 52d Congress, 1st Session), granting to the Regents of the University of California the following described public lands, in trust, for the use of the Lick Observatory, *namely*, the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3; the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 4; the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 4; the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 4; all in Township 7 S, Range 3 E, Monte Diablo Base and Meridian, comprising about 680 acres. The 44th Congress had previously granted 1350 acres in 1876 (see *Publications* of the Lick Observatory, vol. I, page 12, map). Mr. LICK during his lifetime had purchased a tract of 191 $\frac{4}{8}$ acres; Mr. R. F. MORROW had presented a tract of about 40 acres; and the Legislature of California set aside in 1890 the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 16 (320 acres). The total area of the Reservation is therefore about 2581 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres at the present time. The recent additions insure the Observatory against encroachment for all time.

E. S. H.

PHOTOGRAPH OF MARE CRISIUM AND VICINITY.

The plate in this number of the *Publications* is copied from a negative made at the Lick Observatory on August 31, 1890. It represents about the best results which can be obtained by "process-cuts"; and it hardly does justice to the original. In a subsequent number of the *Publications* we shall be able to give a heliogravure reproduction of Professor WEINEK's drawing of this region, when the great superiority of the latter process will be evident.

E. S. H.

LARGE SUN-SPOT OF FEBRUARY, 1892.

This spot was, I believe, first seen by Mr. W. J. HUSSEY of the Ann Arbor Observatory on February 5.* It was independently discovered, *with the naked eye*, by Professor SCHAEBERLE at Mt. Hamilton on February 9. Since that time a very large number of photographs has been made of it, at the Lick Observatory, by Messrs. SCHAEBERLE and CAMPBELL, using the 40-foot horizontal photo-heliograph. A few of these negatives are very fine and it is hoped to reproduce some of them in the *Publications*.

* It was photographed at Northfield on February 5.

The spectrum of the spot has been observed by Dr. CREW, who has printed a note on the subject in *Astronomy and Astro-Physics* for April, 1892.

E. S. H.

THE NEW STAR IN AURIGA, FEBRUARY, 1892.

Professor PICKERING of the Harvard College Observatory has kindly sent us prints from his negatives of 1890, February 6, and of 1891, December 17, which cover the region in *Auriga* where the new star has lately appeared (R. A. $5^h 25^m$; Decl. $+ 30^\circ 21'$). The new star is not on the first plate and it appears on the second. It has therefore been of something like its present brightness since December 17 at least. It was not known to exist, however, until February 1, when a postal-card was sent by Dr. ANDERSON of Edinburgh (its discoverer) to the Astronomer-Royal of Scotland. The discovery was at once verified by him and notified by telegraph to observatories in Europe. The news arrived in the United States on February 2, but the telegram did not reach Mt. Hamilton until February 6. Since that time it has been constantly under observation here. Dr. CREW has printed a preliminary account of its visible spectrum in *Astronomy and Astro-physics* for April, 1892. Professor CAMPBELL has observed both its visible and its photographic spectrum on every available opportunity and has fixed the place of about 50 bright lines and bands. We have received from the Harvard College Observatory a splendid enlargement from negatives of its photographic spectrum made in Cambridge. Plates suitable for measurement showing its relation to comparison stars near it have been made at Mt. Hamilton with the great equatorial, and Professor BURNHAM has measured its distance from surrounding stars. Professors SCHAEBERLE and CAMPBELL have made naked eye and opera-glass estimates of its visual brightness on nearly every night since February 6. Professor SCHAEBERLE has also secured a large number of plates with the CROCKER photographic telescope which show the new star and *Polaris*, with varying exposures, and which are eminently suitable for fixing its photographic magnitude. Besides such short exposures (1^s — 2^s — 4^s — 8^s — 16^s — 32^s — 64^s — 128^s) the latter observer has made a few long exposures on the same region, when the circumstances were favorable, giving all the stars down to about 13 mag. The star is now (March 10) invisible to the naked eye. The reports we have so far received indicate that the weather has not been very favor-